

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/649,560

Examiner

Thomas A. Morrison

Applicant(s)

RICHARDSON ET AL.

Art Unit

3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03/02/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 9.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert A. Sabourin (Registration No. 35,344) on March 29, 2005.

In claim 1, line 9, after "surface", -- in a direction -- was inserted, and before "rollers", -- drive and follower -- was inserted.

In claim 1, lines 9-10, after "the rollers", "in a direction tangential to an intersection of the drive and follower rollers" was deleted.

In claim 9, line 5, after "the", -- top -- was inserted.

In claim 9, line 8, after "surface", -- in a direction -- was inserted.

In claim 9, line 9, after "roller", "in a direction tangential to an intersection of the drive and follower rollers" was deleted.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0189281 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,688,591 (Larsen et al.)) is the closest prior art reference. Larsen et al. discloses a slip sheet capture mechanism cooperating with a plate cassette

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having a stack of printing plates each separated by a slip sheet. Also, Larsen et al. discloses that the slip sheet capture mechanism includes a foot for holding a portion of a slip sheet, and a drive roller and a follower roller forming a nip with the drive roller engaging and rotating along a surface of the slip sheet to fold and draw the slip sheet in a direction into the nip between the drive roller and the follower roller, so that the nip grips the slip sheet. In addition, Larsen et al. discloses a pivot arm. However, with regard to the apparatus claim, Larsen et al. fails to disclose lowering the cassette away from the slip sheet capture mechanism as now set forth in the amended claim. Also, Larsen et al. fails to disclose that the pivot arm moves both the slip sheet capture mechanism (including the drive roller and the follower roller) and the slip sheet attached thereto along an arcuate path as now set forth in the amended claim.

With regard to the method claim, Larsen fails to disclose raising the cassette and lowering the cassette away from the slip sheet as now set forth in the amended claim. Also, Larsen et al. fails to disclose moving the drive roller, the follower roller, the foot and the top slip sheet over an arcuate path to remove the top slip sheet from the cassette as now set forth in the amended claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

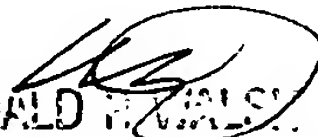
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Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Morrison whose telephone number is 703-305-0554. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Walsh can be reached on 703-306-4173. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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